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25X1Buildings and Landmarks

1. Riga is still a clean European town. The streets are swept early in the morning by the caretakers of buildings before the population sets out for work.
2. Many well-known landmarks are still standing: the Statue of Liberty (Brīvības Piemiņsklis), the National Opera, now called the Ballet and Opera Theater (Balēta un Operas Teātris), and Riga University.
3. On the site of the former Otto Schwarz Cafe, there is now a small park with a statue entitled "Mother and Son". Opposite the Opera, where the well-known Hotel de Roma used to stand, the foundations are now being laid for a 7- or 8-story building, the Hotel Maskava, scheduled to be completed in two years' time.
4. The Riga Radio building has been rebuilt and the Ministry of Building Industry (Būvju Ministrija) is to be housed there. The militia is now accommodated in the former Latvian police prefecture.
5. Scarcely any changes have taken place at the two main railway stations, except that Riga Strand Station (Jūrmalas Stacija) now has three entrances: opposite the main station (old entrance), from Dzirnau Street (old entrance), and from Gogola Street (new entrance).
6. The Central Market is still in use and is at present being renovated. The Daugava Embankment has been rebuilt and there are now benches along the river.
7. Riga now has 4 bridges across the River Daugava, two steel bridges, the old pontoon bridge, and the new wooden bridge leading from Valdemara Street. Trans-Daugava (Pardaugava) has not changed much, except that there are some open spaces here and there where houses used to stand.
8. In Meza Parks, now the Park for Culture and Recreation (Rīgas Kultūras un Atpūtas Parks), hardly any changes are apparent to the ordinary pleasure-seeker, except that there is a new open-air theater, a dance-floor, an

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open-air cinema, volley-ball fields, and buffets. The road from the Zoo to these places is decorated with huge flower vases and pictures of Stalin, Lenin, and members of the Politburo. This district is frequented mostly by Russians, and on Saturdays and Sundays many drunks are to be seen and fist fights are common.

9. There are shops for new and secondhand articles all over Riga. Most things, especially consumer goods, are not scarce. Scarcities do occur but, on the whole, it is usually possible to find what one requires.
10. There are cafes, restaurants, and buffets all over Riga. Restaurants and buffets are frequented by all kinds of persons, cafes mostly by the middle classes. A great deal of black market activity takes place in restaurants and buffets, and the police keep these places under close observation. Lately, badly dressed persons have not been admitted into restaurants.

Locations of Public Offices and Ministries

11. Most of the large public offices and ministries are still in their old (1940-41) buildings. However, not all of the locations are commonly known to persons who have always lived in Riga and it is quite usual to ask a militiaman or a passer-by for directions. The following are some addresses of ministries and public offices:

Ministry of Health (Veselibas Ministrija): 28, Skolas Street.

Ministry of Education (Izglitiba Ministrija): 2, Valnu Street

Ministry of Commerce (Tirdzniecibas Ministrija): 6, Smilsu Street

Ministry of Finance (Finansu Ministrija): 4, Smilsu Street

MVD: Raina Bulvars, not far from Valdemara Street.

MGB: corner of Brivibas (now Lenina) and Stabu Streets.

Ministry of Agriculture (Lauksaimniecibas Ministrija): Komunaru Street

Railway Main Office (Dzelzcela Parvalde): 1, Gogola Street

Communist Party Central Committee (Centrāla Komiteja): Valdemara Street, in the building of the former Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Prefectura: in its former building.

Welfare Department (Socialas Nodrošināšanas Departaments): Valdemara Street, between Lacplēša and Gertrudes Streets.

Academy of Art (Mākslas Akadēmija): corner of Komunaru and Valdemara Streets

Supreme Soviet of Latvia (Augstākā Padome): in the building of the former Saima.

Cabinet (Ministru Padome): in the former building of the Ministry of Justice.

Main Post Office (Galvenais Pasts): corner of Brivibas (now Lenina) and Merkela Streets.

State Archives (Valsts Arhīvs): Slokas Street.

Information Bureaus and Bulletin Boards

12. The addresses of offices, ministries, and hotels, times of train departures, and telephone numbers can be obtained for 0.50 ruble at information offices in various parts of Riga. There are information offices or bureaus near the main railway station and on the corner of Kirova and Brivibas Streets. In addition, advertisements may be handed in and displayed, for a fee of 3.00 rubles, from Monday to Sunday in show-cases near the Statue of Liberty on Brivibas Bulvars and in Brivibas Street near the Matīša market. Since

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newspapers do not accept advertisements from the public, this means of advertising is widely used by the population of Riga. Advertisements are accepted in any language.

Sundays

22. On Sundays, life in Riga starts at approximately 10 a.m. Shops, buffets, and markets are open on Sundays but closed on Mondays. Cinema performances for children start at 10 a.m. All theaters have shows during the day, from noon onward. On the whole, Latvians are inclined to spend their free day at home, but every Sunday many can be seen leaving Riga in trucks on their way to take part in various forms of communal work or to help on the collective farms. Toward evening the streets become crowded, mostly with Russians, who like to spend their day off walking about. Many expensively dressed Russian women are to be seen among them, but in most cases they do not know how to choose their clothes with taste, and the effect is often far from elegant (sometimes even comic).
23. If an official holiday happens to fall on a working day, the previous Sunday becomes a working day and the official holiday counts as the day off. However since individuals have to spend it at political meetings and demonstrations, it can hardly be considered a day of rest.

State Holidays

24. The dates 7 November and 1 May are celebrated as state holidays. On these days demonstrations are always organized at the so-called Victory Square (Uzvaras Laukums) in Trans-Daugava (Pardaugava), where all taking part in the demonstration have to pass the stand on which are gathered the leading personalities of Soviet Latvia.
25. Meetings are held in factories and offices before the holidays and the employees are told when they must assemble for the demonstration. They are divided into groups, and group leaders are appointed. It is the latter's duty to report any absentees from the demonstration. As early as three weeks in advance, offices and factories must report to the local party secretary the number of employees participating, the order in which they will march, the slogans which they will carry, and how the buildings will be decorated. Large sums of money are allotted for decorations.
26. Before a demonstration, individuals usually must report at their place of work at 9 a.m. The military parade begins in Victory Square at 10 a.m. and from that time all traffic across the Daugava River is stopped. The parade lasts until approximately 11:30 a.m. The salute is taken by General Bagration.
27. The participants march six abreast from their place of work, with slogans and pictures of Stalin and other leading personalities, to the point where they join the main body of the demonstration, usually outside the local Communist committee building. The demonstrators then move on with their pictures, banners, and trucks or floats depicting in vivid colors the production of the different factories. The sidewalks are crowded with "non-organized" demonstrators. At street corners there are stands where beer, lemonade, and sausages are sold. Here and there, Russians, Komsomol youths, and drunken Latvians dance to accordion music. As the demonstration approaches the reviewing stand, a cheerleader facing the microphone shouts slogans to each factory ("Long live the Stakhanovs in V.F.", for example), in reply to which the demonstrators have to shout "hurrah". As soon as the procession has reached a distance of some 300 meters from the reviewing stand, the demonstrators' duty is done, the banners and slogans are cast down any way, and everybody runs helter-skelter for home. Next day, the newspapers describe how the Latvians, 100% strong, demonstrated their faith in Stalin and the Party, and how magnificent the parade was.

Opera, Theaters, and Cinemas

28. The former National Opera, now called the Ballet and Opera Theater, is frequented mostly by members of the intelligentsia. The price of admission is 5 - 18 rubles. Beer and soft drinks are on sale during intermissions. Among the best known personalities at the opera are:

Producers: Liepa and Vasiljevs. 25X1

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Singers : Vilumani, Daskovs, Pakule, Jekabsone.

Decor by : A. Lapins.

29. The former National Theater is now called the State Academic Theater (Valsts Akademiskais Teatrs) and shows mostly propaganda plays.

Best known actors: Osis, Anna Klints, Zanders, Katlaps, Line, Zile.

Decor by: Grasmanis and the young Latvian Communist Valdmanis.

30. The Dailes Theater is still in Lacplesa Street. This theater shows less propaganda and more good plays than others. It is therefore always filled to capacity.

Manager : E. Smilgis.

Best known actors: Lilita Berzina, Kreicums, Pabriks, Dimiteris.

Decor by : Professor O. Skulme.

31. The Russian Drama Theater (Krievu Dramas Teatrs) is on the corner of Kalna and Komanas Streets. Mostly realistic plays are shown here, classics and works by young writers. It is always filled to capacity with Russians.

Producers: Jurovskis, Buncuks, Milnikova, Barabanov, Astarov.

32. The Young People's Theater (Jaunatnes Teatrs) is on Lacplesa Street, between Marijas and K.R. Barona Streets, and produces light plays. The inside of the building is not very attractive and the theater is usually half empty.

33. The Musical Comedy Theater (Muzikalas Komedijas Teatrs) is in Vermana Park. Its plays and atmosphere are rather like a fun-fair and it is not very popular.

34. All theater performances begin at 8 p.m. and at 12 noon on Sundays.

35. There are cinemas all over Riga. Mostly Russian films are shown and persons from all walks of life go to see them. The price of admission is 3 - 6 rubles.

36. The circus is in its old location. It is frequented mostly by Russians, and by Latvians from the tough district of Riga known as the Moskau Vorstadt. The price of admission is 5 - 18 rubles.

37. In cinemas and at the circus, one must beware of pickpockets, who are now plentiful in Riga, whereas formerly there were practically none; today they are mostly Russians.

38. Every Thursday, a so-called discussion evening (parrunas vakari) is held in the building of the publishers of the daily paper Cina, on the corner of Blaumana and Marijas Streets. No fee is charged for entrance or cloakroom facilities. These discussion evenings are mostly a kind of program parade by theaters, individual actors, and writers and a discussion of topical political events. The audience consists mainly of students and persons belonging to the intelligentsia. These evenings are rather popular and one has to be present at least half an hour early in order to get in. The program for each evening is announced a few days in advance in the newspaper Cina. This is one of the few gatherings in Riga where alcohol is not on sale.

Sports

39. The most popular sports in Riga are football and motorcycle racing. General Bagramyan and Communist Party members are always to be seen at football matches. Important matches take place at the Daugava football field, which is always packed (total capacity: approximately 25,000 spectators). The best known names in the Latvian state team are: Jegers, Vilumans, Freimans, Vasiljevs, Amalins, and Levitans. This team is in the first group on the USSR level; therefore, the Soviet teams Dynamo (Moscow), Spartaks (Moscow), GOM, Torpedo, and others often play in Riga. Tickets for important games are all sold out as much as a week beforehand.

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40. Nearly all militiamen in Riga seem to be on duty to direct spectators to the field; even part of the Soviet Army garrison in Riga is called in. The militia form a chain approximately 400 meters from the entrance and admit spectators one by one to prevent a stampede.
41. Motorcycle racing takes place in the Park for Culture and Recreation (former Meza Parks) and is attended by members of the Communist Party, Soviet Army officers, including General Bagramyan, and many other spectators.
42. Horse races take place every Sunday from 1 pm. on the race track in Riga. The public is very mixed and indulges heavily in gambling. Buffets are available, and drunken men and women are frequently to be seen.

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16. In nearly every family, both husband and wife must work. The husband often has two jobs or takes extra work home. Only by working very hard is it possible to exist. Military personnel and higher members of the Communist Party are in the best position financially; scientists and technicians come next, and the working classes are in the worst condition. Although the workman is told that everything belongs to him, he receives only about 250 to 400 rubles per month, out of which he has to pay taxes and to subscribe to a letter to "our father Stalin", thanking him for the "beautiful life and liberty". It is upon the worker that the burden of Soviet occupation falls heaviest. During working hours, every second of his time is accounted for; and, if he does not fulfill his norm, he will soon be declared "harmful" and is likely to be arrested.
17. After working hours there are frequent political lectures which everyone must attend and, in addition, there are compulsory two-year courses at the Marxist-Leninist Evening University for educated persons. Before State holidays, there are also special "holiday courses" and "holiday meetings" after working hours at the work-centers. When a worker finally arrives home, he either has more work to do or he must study some political book, or he must sleep in order to have enough strength for next day's work. There is very little time for hobbies, entertainment, or religion. Nevertheless, individuals do occasionally find time for recreation. Members of the free professions, artists, actors, interpreters, and translators at the book center have more free time than the average person.
18. Those who earn enough to save money do not buy houses or apartments, since to do so would be a sign of a kulak. Instead, they put their money into yachts, motorcycles, or motor cars. Many private cars are to be seen in the streets of Riga.

Personal Appearance and Morale

19. On the whole, the population in Riga dresses well. Individuals wear decent suits and coats, collars and ties, and good shoes. Many of the shoes in rather fancy styles, with crepe soles, etc., are imported from Czechoslovakia, as are the brief cases that so many persons carry. The middle-class Latvian prefers to eat less rather than to appear badly dressed on the streets.
20. Life in Riga appears to be quite normal. No anti-Soviet feeling is openly evident, but this is because everyone keeps his political opinions strictly to himself and avoids talking to strangers. It is felt that this is the only way to survive the Soviet occupation. Every patriotic Latvian still hopes for liberation and looks upon Latvia not as a part of the Soviet Union but as occupied territory. Of course, no one talks about it in public but, in trams or in shops, incidents between Latvians and Russians can often be observed which indicate that anti-Soviet feeling is still very much alive. Politics are never discussed with strangers, and individuals repeat in parrot fashion what is said in the newspapers and in political books. To the outside world, it is always "our Stalin" and "our Party".

Summer Holidays

21. Everyone who can afford to do so tries to go to Riga Strand for his summer holiday. A room or two for the summer season costs between 500 and 1,000 rubles. Rooms have to be rented early in the spring before Russians from the interior of the USSR start to arrive. All nationalities from the USSR can be seen there during the summer. Most Russian visitors stay in the Majori and Dzintari districts. Riga Strand has many concert halls, restaurants, cafes, and an endless number of buffets. The Strand is connected with Riga by train and bus; trains leave every 15 to 20 minutes. Latvians who prefer a more quiet holiday mostly go to Vecaki, on the coast east of Riga Strand.

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